UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,762	03/30/2004	Wei Kwan Ng	200309090-1	5242

22879 7590 05/09/2005

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
COLILLA, DANIEL JAMES	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2854	

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/813,762	NG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Daniel J. Colilla	2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *20 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,11-13 and 15-17* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *4,8-10,14 and 18-20* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *20 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bailey et al. (US 5,806,844).

With respect to claim 1, Bailey et al. discloses an imaging media tray for an imaging system including a media cassette formed by walls 20, 22 and 24, of which wall 20 is a sloping end wall as shown in Figures 2-3 of Bailey et al. Further disclosed is a blocking means 34 having a blocking mode (shown in Figure 9) which prevents imaging media 18 from moving up said sloping end wall while the media cassette is being inserted into said imaging system (Bailey et al., col. 5, lines 28-32) and an inactive mode which facilitates transmission of the media 18 to the imaging system (Bailey et al., col. 5, lines 63-67); the inactive mode being adopted after the media cassette is inserted into the imaging system (Bailey et al., col. 5, lines 63-67).

With respect to claims 2 and 12, the blocking means includes a blocking element 34 which is movable between the blocking and inactive positions.

With respect to claims 3 and 13, the walls and floor of the media cassette bias the blocking element 34 (through normal forces) so that it remains in the blocking position when the media cassette is being inserted into the imaging system (Bailey et al, col. 5, lines 63-67).

With respect to claim 11, Bailey et al. discloses a method for preventing imaging media from moving up a sloping end wall 20 of a media cassette formed by walls 20, 22 and 24 in an imaging media tray including the step of providing a blocking means 34 having a blocking mode (see Figure 9 of Bailey et al.) and an inactive mode (Bailey et al., col. 5, lines 63-67). Figures 7-9 of Bailey et al. show the step of setting the blocking means 34 to blocking mode at least when said media cassette is being inserted into the imaging system (Bailey et al., col. 5, lines 28-32), and Bailey et al. discloses the step of setting the blocking means 34 to the inactive mode after said media cassette is inserted into the imaging system to facilitate transmission of media to the imaging system in col. 5, lines 63-67.

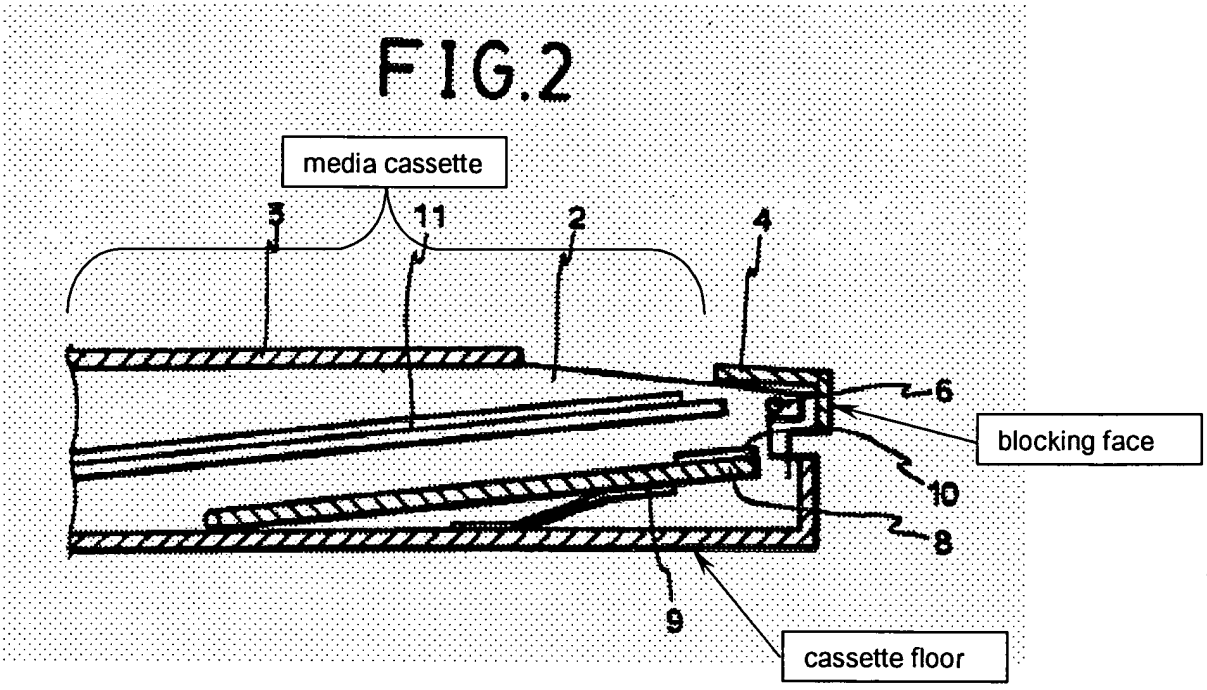
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11-13 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (US 5,201,511) in view of Bortolotti (US 6,116,589).

With respect to claim 1, Kim discloses the claimed imaging media tray except for the sloping end wall. Kim discloses an imaging media tray including a media cassette as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 2 of Kim:



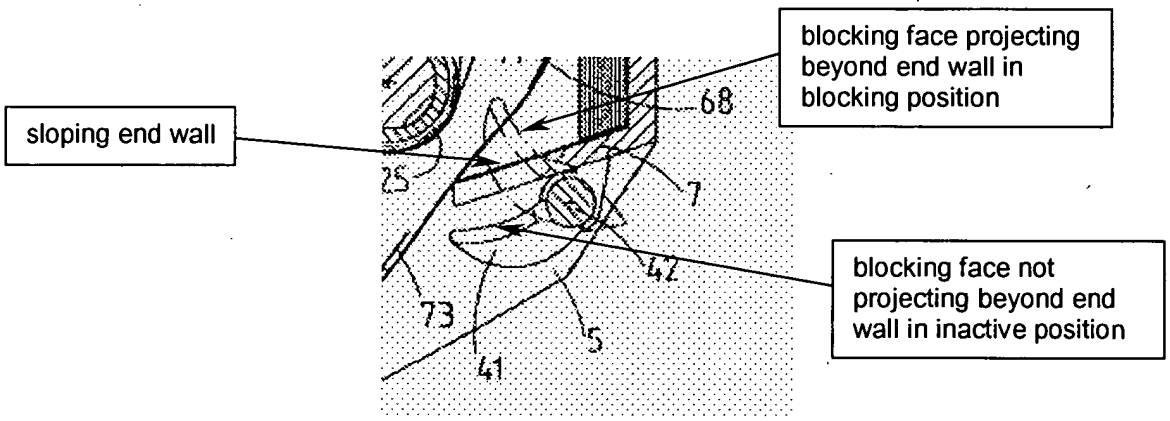
Also disclosed by Kim is a blocking means 20 having a blocking mode (shown in Figure 1 of Kim) which prevents media from moving forward when the cassette is being inserted into an imaging system and an inactive mode (shown in Figure 3B of Kim) to facilitate transmission of the media to the imaging system. Figure 3B shows that the blocking means 20 is in the inactive mode after the cassette is inserted in the imaging system. Bortolotti discloses an imaging media tray with a sloping wall 7 and a blocking means 41 that is movable between a blocking mode and an inactive mode as shown by the hidden lines and sold lines respectively in Figure 2 of Bortolotti. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Bortolotti with the imaging media tray disclosed by Kim for the advantage of the sloping front wall that facilitates the feeding of the printing media out of the media tray.

With respect to claims 2 and 12, Figures 3A and 3B show that the blocking means includes at least one blocking element 4 movable between blocking and inactive positions.

With respect to claims 3 and 13, Kim discloses biasing the blocking element 20 in the blocking position when the media cassette is inserted into the imaging system with spring 7 as shown in Figures 1 and 3A of Kim.

With respect to claims 5 and 15, Kim discloses means 13 for moving (and the step of moving) the at least one blocking element 4 to the inactive position in response to the media cassette being inserted into the imaging system as shown in Figures 3A and 3B of Kim and discussed in col. 3, lines 35-49 of Kim.

With respect to claims 6 and 16, Bortolotti discloses a blocking face on blocking member 41. Figure 2 of Bortolotti shows that the blocking face projects beyond the sloping wall in the blocking position, but does not project beyond the sloping end wall in the inactive position as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 2 of Bortolotti:



With respect to claims 7 and 17, Kim discloses a blocking face that extends substantially normal to a floor of the media cassette as shown above in the Figure taken from Figure 2 of Kim. With respect to claim 11, Kim discloses a method for preventing imaging media from moving forward in a media cassette formed as shown above in the Figure taken from Figure 1 of Kim in

an imaging media tray including the step of providing a blocking means 20 having a blocking mode (see Figure 2 of Kim) and an inactive mode (see Figure 3B of Kim). Figure 3A of Kim shows the step of setting the blocking means 20 to blocking mode at least when said media cassette is being inserted into the imaging system, and Kim discloses the step of setting the blocking means 20 to the inactive mode after said media cassette is inserted into the imaging system to facilitate transmission of media to the imaging system as shown in Figure 3B. Bortolotti discloses an imaging media tray with a sloping wall 7 and a blocking means 41 that is movable between a blocking mode and an inactive mode as shown by the hidden lines and sold lines respectively in Figure 2 of Bortolotti. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Bortolotti with the imaging media tray disclosed by Kim for the advantage of the sloping front wall that facilitates the feeding of the printing media out of the media tray.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4, 8-10, 14 and 18-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 4 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for the blocking element being mounted on a base such that the weight of the blocking element biases said blocking element to said blocking position.

Claims 8-10 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for the retainer element movable between start and end positions.

Claim 14 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for the step of mounting the blocking element on a base such that the weight of the blocking element biases said blocking element to said blocking position.

Claims 18-20 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for the step of moving a retainer element between start and end positions.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kinoshita et al., Obana, Yanagi et al. and Oishi et al. are cited to show other examples of imaging media trays with blocking elements for blocking movement of the printing media.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Colilla whose telephone number is (571) 272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached Mon.-Thur. between 7:30 am and 5:00 pm. Faxes regarding this application can be sent to (703) 872-9306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached at (571) 272-2168. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 2, 2005

Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854